

26 August 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. SECURITY OFFICIALS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CLONED EMERGENCY VEHICLES:

"Meanwhile, the Secret Service says it doesn't have any specific information that cloned vehicles are being used for terrorist or other illicit purposes at the Democratic convention in Denver or the GOP convention in St. Paul, Minnesota."

2. NORTH CAROLINA WANTS OUT, BUT S.A. [SAN ANTONIO, TX] STILL PUSHING FOR BIO-DEFENSE LAB:

"In a matter of months, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) could select one of a half dozen finalist sites, among them San Antonio, as the home for a new 520,000-square-foot National Bio Agro Defense Facility."

3. CRITICS SAY MONITORS SNIFFING DENVER AIR DON'T MAKE US SAFE: *"9Wants to Know has learned that early warning detection system, called BioWatch, will also monitor the air inside the Pepsi Center and INVESCO Field during the Democratic National Convention."*

4. UK [UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY] TESTING SMALLPOX VACCINE: *"The study, being conducted at 11 sites in the United States and Mexico, doesn't involve the smallpox virus, which is highly contagious and was eradicated through vaccination."*

Chem-Demil News

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"A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure that houses bulk containers."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

SECURITY OFFICIALS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CLONED EMERGENCY VEHICLES

NationalTerrorAlert.com

August 23, 2008

"A Federal Emergency Management Agency memo 'bulletin' says terrorists could use such "cloned" emergency or commercial vehicles to conduct surveillance or carry out an attack.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau says faking such vehicles is inexpensive, perhaps costing as little as \$2000.00.

Meanwhile, the Secret Service says it doesn't have any specific information that cloned vehicles are being used for terrorist or other illicit purposes at the Democratic convention in

Denver or the GOP convention in St. Paul, Minnesota."

"Several recent incidents of cloned vehicles has caught the attention of intelligence analysts at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). In a nationwide survey of recent "cloned" vehicle reports, a troubling pattern emerged. In their study, tagged "law enforcement sensitive," and completed this January, the FDLE charted some 15 incidents involving both faked official and commercial vehicles between 2005 and 2007, which should serve as a wake-up call to law enforcement and counterterrorism officials worldwide."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2008/08/23/security-officials-on-the-lookout-for-cloned-emergency-vehicles/>

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NORTH CAROLINA WANTS OUT, BUT S.A. STILL PUSHING FOR BIO-DEFENSE LAB

By W. Scott Bailey and Catherine Dominguez

San Antonio Business Journal

August 21, 2008

"In a matter of months, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) could select one of a half dozen finalist sites, among them San Antonio, as the home for a new 520,000-square-foot National Bio Agro Defense Facility.

But while elected officials in North Carolina recently notified federal officials of their opposition to having the facility built in Butner (one of the finalist sites) due to unanswered environmental concerns, Texas political officials continue to push hard for their entry — a Texas Research Park site located just west of San Antonio. Local leaders contend that the Alamo City, which already is home to a high-risk bio lab, has the expertise and experience to safely support the proposed DHS facility."

The full article can be found at: <http://washington.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/stories/2008/08/25/story1.html>

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CRITICS SAY MONITORS SNIFFING DENVER AIR DON'T MAKE US SAFE

9News.com

August 22, 2008

"9Wants to Know has learned that early warning detection system, called BioWatch, will also monitor the air inside the Pepsi Center and INVESCO Field during the Democratic National Convention.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will not say how many monitors have been placed in Denver or where they are located. Filters are collected at least once a day from the

monitors and the samples are analyzed at the state lab in Lowry. The samples are tested for six dangerous pathogens that could pose a health threat if aerosolized and released to the environment."

"Denver is one of 30 cities participating in the pilot program since it began in 2003. The White House tasked the Department of Homeland Security to develop the ability to detect biological agents in major U.S. cities after anthrax letters killed five people and sickened 17 others.

The BioWatch program was largely criticized this summer by some of the participating states and in a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Among other things, critics say it takes too long, up to 36 hours, for labs to get test results. In an actual bio-attack, that would be too late for some people."

"Calogne [Dr. Ned Calogne, Chief Medical Officer for Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment] says the system is only meant to provide early detection."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.9news.com/seenon9news/article.aspx?storyid=98120&catid=509>

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UK [UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY] TESTING SMALLPOX VACCINE

By Sarah Vos

Lexington Herald-Leader

August 25, 2008

"The study, being conducted at 11 sites in the United States and Mexico, doesn't involve the smallpox virus, which is highly contagious and was eradicated through vaccination.

Unlike the current vaccine, which leaves a pocklike scar, the new one is injected.

Called Imvamune, it contains a non-replicating version of the vaccinia virus, which scientists believe will make it safer than the current vaccine.

The study is examining how people who have chronic inflammatory skin conditions such as eczema react to the new vaccine.

The current vaccine, which delivers the live virus vaccinia with a series of pricks, can cause serious, even life-threatening conditions in people with atopic dermatitis, as the skin conditions are called."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kentucky.com/211/story/500578.html>

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RESEARCHERS MAKE ANTHRAX DISCOVERY

By Hafiza Aimaq

The Daily Aztec [San Diego State University]

August 25, 2008

"Researchers at San Diego State recently proved that anthrax is able to penetrate the blood-brain barrier, a barrier that keeps dangerous viruses and bacteria from entering the brain."

"Doran explained how genes are turned on to make proteins that eventually signal an immune response. White blood cells come to the site of the infection to fight bacteria from spreading into the brain.

"In this current study, we show that the anthrax bacterium blocks this signaling process; meaning the bacteria and specifically the toxins, turn off those same genes," Doran said. "Thus the immune response is impaired, which gives the bacteria free reign to continue spreading into the brain to cause disease."

With the immune system impaired, the bacteria can penetrate the blood-brain barrier and multiply rapidly, causing meningitis and CNS infection - both infections of the nervous system."

The full article can be found at: <http://media.www.thedailyaztec.com/media/storage/paper741/news/2008/08/25/City/Researchers.Make.Anthrax.Discovery-3402660.shtml>

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - DEPOT DETECTS TRACE OF MUSTARD CHEMICAL AGENT VAPOR DURING ROUTINE STORAGE AREA MONITORING

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

August 21, 2008

"A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure that houses bulk containers. The trace of mustard chemical agent vapor was detected during routine monitoring. The vapor is likely due to a leaking bulk container or "ton container."

There is no danger to the public or environment. The storage structure, commonly called an "igloo," has a passive filtration system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structure. As a further protective measure after the leak was discovered, a powered filtration system was installed. The leaking container or containers will be identified, inspected, repaired as necessary, and decontaminated.

Mustard is a blister agent that freezes below 59 degrees Fahrenheit. As aging mustard bulk containers thaw out in warmer months of the year, they can leak. Those leaks are typically first discovered when depot monitoring workers routinely check for agent vapors from outside the igloo.

Mustard agent is a colorless to light yellow to dark brown oily liquid, depending upon the age and relative purity of the material. It has the odor of garlic or horseradish and its vapor is approximately 5.5 times heavier than air. Although mustard does not readily evaporate, it may pose both a liquid contact hazard and a vapor hazard to the eyes, skin or respiratory tract. The only type of mustard munition stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot is bulk containers or "ton containers." Those munitions have no explosive components.

Depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. Army officials also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore.; Benton County, Wash.; those in Oregon and Washington states; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003678683>

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Send subscription requests, unsubscribing requests, questions and comments to:

Sandy Banks: Sandra.Banks@anser.org

Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

Heather Williams: Heather.Williams@anser.org

Suzanne Martinez: Suzanne.Martinez@anser.org

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